

## Undergraduate ESI Capstone Project

The Capstone Project for senior undergraduate ESI fellows will be individually tailored to the ESI fellow's specific scholarly circumstances. Each Undergrad. ESI fellow will have a different capstone project; for example, ESI students who are additionally writing senior or honors theses can coordinate research interests and efforts. In some cases, the undergraduate ESI fellow's Capstone Project might be in active support of a postdoctoral ESI fellow's public-facing project. Alternately, an undergraduate ESI fellow's Capstone Project might involve a community service element, a website or blog, an archival project, or digitized exhibition. The aims of the Capstone Project are the enhancement of the undergraduate scholar's coursework and disciplinary field(s) of specialization and the sharing of the ESI undergraduate fellow's scholarly and educational expertise in the Humanities. Undergraduate fellows' workshops and individualized instruction will support the production of the Capstone Project.

The boundaries for the Capstone Project are deliberately open, broad, and flexible. The cultural, scholarly, and social commitments of the undergraduate ESI fellow will determine the nature of his or her project, and celebrate the fellow's ideals as a Humanities scholar and citizen. The Capstone Project should not interfere with the completion of senior coursework; scholarly synthesizing and streamlining will be high priorities.

### When to start planning for the Capstone Project?

As a group, the forthcoming senior undergraduate ESI cohort will workshop ideas for the Capstone Projects near the end of the spring semester of the junior year. Opportunities for collaborating with ESI graduate postdoctoral and undergraduate fellows might manifest during the spring Capstone Project workshop. Cohort partnerships will be encouraged and supported.

The summer season *before* the ESI fellow's senior year is an ideal time for the initial planning of the Capstone Project. This timing will enable the Program Coordinator to provide each fellow with the resources needed to successfully materialize his or her project when the fall semester begins.

**How to Prepare for the Capstone Project?** In the summer after the completion of the junior year, begin to draft the Capstone Vision Plan. If the fellow will be working as an active member of an ESI postdoctoral fellow's public-facing project, make sure to coordinate efforts with the ESI graduate mentor and partner. Identify the role that you will be playing in the postdoctoral fellow's public-facing project.

If the undergraduate fellow plans to partner with on- or off-campus organizations or communities, begin to plan with the partnering institution or group; make sure that you have a clear sense of the logistics that will be involved with any on- or off-campus partners. Remember that the Program Coordinator is available to assist you with these efforts.

**The Capstone Project Vision Plan:** write a one-page description of the ESI fellow's project: what are its aims and goals? Describe the relationship between your discipline(s), scholarly field(s) of interest, and future scholarly and/or professional aspirations and the Capstone Project. Identify any ESI fellows, and on- or off-campus partners that you will be working with. Identify any resources that you will need to successfully complete your Capstone Project. Send your Capstone Vision Plan to Dr. Carter, the ESI Program Coordinator, by or before the first week of the fall semester of your senior year.